

**Hanoi Reaction****Bitter Sequel to Podgorny Visit**

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**Hanoi**

Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny's visit has left an impression here that North Vietnam has arrived at a turning point that could result in Hanoi's abandonment by some Socialist states.

In a political system not given to trusting outsiders, or oververbosity, the few remarks so far about Podgorny's 72-hour stay here indicate that he provoked some bitterness on the part of the North Vietnamese.

The style of the visit, which took place almost in near secrecy, was not lost on observers here.

Between Thursday and Sunday, nothing was heard or seen in local newspapers and radio stories to indicate that the Soviet President was in Hanoi.

Only on Monday was the visit made "official" with the publication of a Foreign Ministry communique. The two-page statement typed in Vietnamese bore no official stamp, a rare omission, and was seen by observers here as vague and adding nothing new.

The visit to Peking by President Nixon's national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, has also been greeted with total silence by the North Vietnamese press.

Observers have been left with the impression that Hanoi views with disfavor the current moves involving the three big powers—the United States, the Soviet Union and China—and the pressures they are exerting to arrive at a settlement of the Indochina conflict.

and alone.

It is no secret that military supplies, especially from China, continue to reach North Vietnam despite the mining of its ports, but behind the smiles and outward calm the great power moves appear to have caused some disappointment.

The bitterness is coupled with fears for the future. Since there is no question of Hanoi giving up what is seen as a favorable military position, observers here wonder what cards the U.S. has left to play.

Many North Vietnamese are inclined to see the suffering as not yet over. After systematically bombing and rebombing whole regions, the U.S. has, in the eyes of many observers, only one card left to play to break the North Vietnamese resistance—the total destruction of Hanoi.

In this connection, the decision to halt bombing around Hanoi during Podgorny's visit was seen here as "amoral" and it was noted that China has failed to react "very energetically" to the increasing closeness of the bombing to its frontiers.

As the American bombing of North Vietnam reaches a record level—more than 300 raids over the last five days—it seems that the North Vietnamese feel themselves morally abandoned